

statured, and which they continue to retain. The white guipure, or Cluny lace, recently introduced here, and already so fashionable, is but the capricious revival of an almost extinct manufacture. It is especially serviceable, being so wrought that the mesh is curiously doubled, but too heavy, and dowager-like, we think, to be a beautiful trimming for dresses. It is far better adapted to underclothes, pillow-covers, and the like. The charming collars, undersleeves, and handkerchiefs, found every where this season, are prettier in shape and design than we have ever seen them. They are, however, very expensive. Any lady of ordinary ingenuity can purchase the materials, and make them herself, at little more than half the cost. The favorite shapes in collars are the tiny, round style so long popular, the page, with its slight point at the back, and small square tabs in front, and a modification of the Empress, pointed before and behind, and richer, we think, than either of the others. Undersleeves are very small, in deference to the coat-sleeve. Made of alternate bands of muslin and lace insertion, with a tiny thread or Valenciennes still at the wrist, they are very simple and pretty. For the street, and morning, and negligé toilets, linen sleeves and collars are suitable. Indeed, they are worn with rich dresses, and even with dinner white. They are, however, objectionable in those uses. First, because they are not elegant enough to complete such a costume harmoniously. Second, because a hard, opaque white, like starched linen is peculiarly unbecoming to the most lovely complexion. In a well-designed costume the abruptness of sudden terminations is as much avoided as possible. Sections should melt into each other. Outlines should be indicated, not insisted upon. Therefore soft lace, at the throat and wrists, where the gown ends, not only seems to refine the skin, but imparts a grace to the toilet which stiff white bands can never do.

## LINGERIE.

Almost too pretty for its uses. The introduction of sewing-machines, and their presence in nearly every household, enable women to lavish upon underclothes a skill and taste which want of time utterly forbids a few years since. Dwindling necks, and ruffles, and bands, and frills, give a plump foundation, till the garment seems almost afraid to know itself. Any genuine woman delights in dainty and multiplied ornament of white, and would choose external calico so that her inner habit were linen and lace, rather than silk without and unadorned muslin within. She likes concealed apparel to be of the neatest. That is her syphilitic virtue.

When certain petticoats were first introduced, they overcame with difficulty the strong regard for white. Now, their bold and fashionable protection is so strong that they assert themselves in flagrant violation of good taste. All undergarments should be of material which can be easily and thoroughly cleaned, and white linen or cotton, by every law of fitness, takes precedence. Women accepted the colored woolen petticoat only as a warm and serviceable substitute for the more ladies' cambric skirt, which duty and cold weather made unsatisfactory. It must remain a neat and plain white, or become a vulgar, self-exaggerating sport. Nothing can be in worse taste than the petticoats of white alpaca, richly ornamented with velvet, or frills, and touching the delicacies of the stockings, or those of light silk, fine merino, and costly cashmere. A warm, rich-colored falmon, a wadded and quilted petticoat so short that it may delay the pollution of the pavement, the ever lady-like white skirt, the stains of whose purity may be washed away in the laundry—these either, or all of these, dear ladies, and make fit ornaments as the weather shall suggest. But as you value your reputation for good sense, and taste, refuse to invest yourselves in these hybrid horrors which are neither useful, nor beautiful, and which will naturally gravitate into the undisputed holding of the demi-monde.

There is a tendency of late to the wearing of much larger loops on the promenade than have been used for some years. In cars and omnibuses they are an unusual nuisance; on the sidewalks, a hindrance to their wearer, and an inconvenience to every one else. For the streets, and for the ball-room, the Parisian hoop is small and worn with a deeply-diamonded pattern, which sustains the drapery, and expands the dress without making entirely needless revisions of the owner's costume. If, in the drawing room, this round of sovereignty must be extended till it forms a fitting framework for the voluminous robes now fashionable, that is surely the affair of the wearer. It is only when it intrudes the liberties of a suffering business world, which rides in omnibus and walks on Broadway, that we offer our feeble protest.

## DRESS GOODS.

Within the month, but a whisper of hope was uttered, to our credulous ear this morning by one of the magnates of trade. "It is certain," he said, "that goods must supply fall. The supply accumulating in our warehouses is enormous, and the demand already abates." So the excellent honest people, who could not buy at high prices what they could not afford, shall have their day. Huge plauds to sober colors are now seen; stripes hold their place, and figures, large and small, claim to be recognized. Plain rich fabrics must always be in the best taste, but of course any novelty has its apostles.

## MUSSES.

Gored dresses cut à la Gabrielle, or with the skirt separate, gain in popularity daily. They are very graceful, pretty and economical, going away entirely with the bunches of fullness which the very wide skirts formerly entailed at the girdle. The pieces left at the sides of the gored will usually make waist and sleeves, except where the material is very narrow. The best pattern we have seen is Madame Demoret's, which may be bought of full size for forty cents, and by which any lady may fashion her own robe. Very little trimming is worn on these simply flowing skirts. None on the waists. The sleeves—the favorite coat pattern, very small at the wrist, are simply ornamented with epaulettes, and cuffs. Sets of velvet ornaments for waist, skirt and sleeves, heavy with embroidery and heads of jet, gilt, or steel, are somewhat used. They cost from eighteen to thirty dollars the set. Rich velvet ribbons, embossed, and cut out in graceful patterns of leaves, arabesques, or more formal geometrical figures, are much worn. Evening dresses are made with the sensible and absolute peaks, so long, and so absurdly in favor. Young ladies will this winter wear these robes rather than silk. The consumer party dresses so lavishly displayed this season, might be Titania's coronation robes a little enlarged, so airy, so diaphanous, so costly are they. Many dresses are cut with long queues, deeper than sashets, the bind, and very short in front, almost like the tunic. For dinner and evening robes, the Pompadour or square corsage with pretty puffed, or embroidered pheasantette, is in fashion. With the hair worn low this mode saves the back of the dress from injury. Fanciful jackets of white alpaca, or colored cashmere, are much worn with contrasting skirts.

## BONNETS.

have suffered little change within the month. To their gauze and general unbecomingness is due the great popularity of the jaunty round hats. Very capacious, and *insouciant* are those above a pretty face, but they look cold without caps in the sharper weather.

At the time this Winter the prettiest toilets ignore the bonnet altogether. This is as it should be. The most beautiful object in nature is the human head, and the hair can be a more tasteful ornament than the coat-skirt and delimiting bonnet. One sight for the degenerated eyes of that courageous apostle of the Fit and Beautiful, who shall ruinate the charming fashion. There is no reason why a woman should be doomed to suffer three long hours in a bonnet which hurts her ears, and muffles her head. And it is a fine respect to the actors who enact the time for one, to sit uncovered before drawing-room.

The long and wide walls are universally worn, and very pretty when they are not deformed by tawdry gilt and tarnishing steel. They are called the *Sudan*, and might with equal propriety be named the *Emperor*, or the Commander-in-Chief of the army and Navy.

## CLOAKS.

present no varieties. Velvet, ranging in price from \$125 to \$300, is of course the most regal garment. Fine cloths, Beaver, astrakhan, and quilted silk, are useful and pretty. The shapes are the basquine, French sacque, circle, and short sacque. Trimmings are rather abundant than elegant, but there are many admirably tasteful styles. The very light, and white, soft, woolly cloths, so suitable for ladies' promenade dress, are pretty for children, and much used. The buttons are a special feature. They are all costly, a few desirable, most, nightmares.

## HEAD-DRESSES.

are various. The most popular is the bandlet, consisting of three bands of ribbon, velvet, tinsel, or steel, passing over the head, and secured beneath the coil, or waterfall, with a bow and floating ends. Pretty caps of muslin inserting, and Valenciennes, are also seen. The hair is worn in long and heavy coils, the persons of really fine tresses must hesitate to make. The high rolls have fallen from their "bad eminence," and now and then heads are seen which resemble nature, and not the actions of a Chinese puzzle. Waterfalls still live, notwithstanding the assertion that the belles had entombed them with the epithet, "False, once, farewell!" They are less obtrusive than before, and somewhat overshadowed by the surpassing elegance of the Empire bonnet, but genuine and defiant waterfalls still.

## GENAMENTS.

of cold revive quaint forgotten Oriental forms and geometrical figures. Outlines are not graceful, but grotesque. These ornaments are taken with gems, however, and very costly, but the fashion must be ephemeral.

## NECKLACES.

of brilliant hues and over-wrought patterns take the place of a brooch, except in full toilette, and greatly enlivens the dress. The designs may be bought separately, and can easily be joined to a plain ribbon by dexterous fingers, which will secure the beauty of the work.

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A few years ago, a small show-case was held in front of the premises, number two hundred and thirty-one, corner of Forty-ninth street and Eighth avenue, and permitted to remain only during the pleasure of the Common Council.

## CITY GOVERNMENT.

## Board of Aldermen.

STATED SESSN.—FRIDAY, Dec. 15, 1855.

**OFFICIAL.**—Alderman Moore, Flynn, Shanno, Gedney, McKnight, Rivers, Jeremiah, Brice, Kelly, Masterson, Ottewill, O'Brien, Farley and Van Vorhis—16.

The President was absent at recess, on motion of Alderman Flynn. Alderman Moore was called to the chair.

Mr. Develin, Clerk of the Board, read the minutes of the last meeting, and adjourned.

Mr. Develin was called to the chair.

Report of Committee on Belts, with power.

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